(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor and by when they are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has a regular Chairman and Managing Director. He has been given the additional charge of Vayudoot also. Air India has an acting Chairman and Managing Diretcor. The appointment of a regular CMD for Air India is receiving the attention of the government.

Exploitation of coal resources in Orissa

*15. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any scheme for the exploitation of coal resources in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHR P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) A statement has been laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have accorded a high priority in growth of Talcher and Ib-Valley Coalfields of Orissa. Coal resources in the State of Orissa have been estimated by the Geological Survey of India to be 44304.43 million tonnes as on 1-1-91, out of which 4826.79 million tonnes are the proved resources. Large mechanised Opencast mines have been planned and some are already under construction.

The coal production in the State of Orissa has reached a level of 16.27 million tonnes in 1990-91. This is likely to go upto 26.58 million tonnes by 1994-95 and 81.82 million tonnes by 2000 A.D. Some of the major projects which are planned to be developed for increasing the coal production are:—

Statement

S.No.	Projects	Coalfield	Capacity
1	Ananta O.C.	Talcher	4.0 mty.
2	Kalinga O.C.	Talcher	8.0 mty.
3	Lingraj O.C.	Talcher	5.0 mty.
4	Lakhanpur O.C.	Ib-Valley	5.0 mty.
5	Samleshwari O.C.	Ib-Valley	3.0 mty.

Purchae of Boeing 747 by Air India

*16. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the Air India's order for purchase of four Boeing 747 Combis, if so, what will be the cost and how will it be financed;

(b) what engine has been selected for these aricraft and on what considerations;

(c) from which country the same will be purchased; and

(d) what is the report of experts' committee for the purchase of Boeing 747?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have approved the acquisition of four Boeing 747-400 (passenger version) aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 1962.03 crores with a foreign exchange component of US $ 667.09 million. This purchase will be financed from the international capital market.

(b) and (c) The seletcion of engines for the aircraft is still under consideration.

(d) There was no expert committee for the purchase of Boeing 747.

Modernisation of coal mines

*17 SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of an investment of more than Rs. 1,100 crore in coal mines for modernisation, coal production has not improved in quality after nationalisation of coal mines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the present ash content has increased as compared to pre-nationalisation level, if so, what is the ash content in coal at present;

(c) how many times coal prices were hiked since the nationalisation of the coal mines;

(d) whether any expert committees have undertaken indepth, study of the problems of the coal mines and suggested remedial measures; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Indian coals generally have high ash content and low calorific value. Better reserves of coal in the country are depleting fast. While there may be difference in the inherent quality of coal from underground and opencast mines, coal from opencast mines is less preferred because of the possibility of the coal getting mixed with some quantities of overburden. The problem of quality, however, generally arises on account of actual supplies not conforming to their stated specifications.

Around 64 per cent of the coal in the country are produced from mechanised opencast mines. With a view to getting quick production more opencast mines are being developed to increase recoverable reserves through this technology.

Since better quality deposits were taken up for mining first and the new mines being opened have lower grades of coal, the ash content of coal have been progressively on the increase. The average ash content of coal being mixed presently varies between 35 percent and 45 percent.

(c) After nationalisation of coal mines, the pit-head prices of coal were revised 9 (nine) times.

(d) and (e) Many Export Committees have made in depth studies of the problems of coal mines and suggested remedial measures. It is not possible to indicate the full details of these comittees and their recomedations here. Some salient details are as follows:

(i) In 1980 an Export Committee headed by Mohd. Fazal, former Member, Planning Commission was appointed by the Ministry of Finance